

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TAGS: ECOSOC, EGEN, UN
SUBJECT: AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING: MAY 4 MEETING

1. SUMMARY: THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING MET
IN A HALF DAY SESSION MAY 4, BUT MANAGED ONLY TO COMPLETE
CONSIDERATION OF PART I, AND THE PRODUCT IS HEAVILY
BRACKETED. END SUMMARY.

2. THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING RESUMED CONSIDERA-
TION MAY 4 OF THE CONSOLIDATED TEXT, PICKING UP AT PARA 4
OF PART I, BUT MANAGED IN STICKY NEGOTIATION TO PROGRESS
ONLY THROUGH THAT AND THE FINAL PARA (PARA 5) OF PART I.
MOREOVER, THE FINAL PRODUCT IS HEAVILY BRACKETED. THE
DEBATE ENTAILED SOME SHARP, EVEN PERSONALIZED INTERVENTIONS,
AND EXPRESSIONS OF LIGHTLY CONCEALED PESSIMISM ABOUT THE
PROSPECTS FOR THE RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE.

3. PARA 4(A). JAPAN LED OFF THE DEBATE PROPOSING (A) AN
INSERTION (IN LINE 5) TO ESTABLISH THE NEED TO CONSIDER
SOCIAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL QUESTIONS IN AN "INTEGRATED"
MANNER, AND (B) A FINAL SENTENCE STATING THAT "STEPS
SHOULD BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE COORDINATION BETWEEN THE
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SECOND AND FIFTH COMMITTEES."

4. WHILE THE SECOND JAPANESE PROPOSAL WAS READILY
ACCEPTED, THE FIRST PRECIPITATED WIDE-RANGING DEBATE AND
OPENED UP SOVIET AND POLISH OBJECTIONS TO THE HIGHLIGHTING
IN THE TEXT OF A "SHARPER FOCUS FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS". THE DEBATE WAS

CONDUCTED LARGELY BETWEEN THE UK AND THE US, ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE USSR AND POLAND, ON THE OTHER, WITH G-77 SPOKESMEN DISPLAYING LACK OF PREPARATION OR MUCH ENTHUSIASM AND A DESIRE TO PUT OFF DECISIONS. THE G-77 ARE TO MEET AGAIN ON THE MORNING OF MAY 5 TO RESUME GROUP DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES.)

5. THE UPSHOT WAS A DECISION: (A) TO INSERT IN BRACKETS THE NEED TO CONSIDER SOCIAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL QUESTIONS IN AN INTEGRATED MANNER; (B) TO BRACKET (AT POLISH AND SOVIET INSISTENCE) THE PHRASE "AND THE NEED TO PROVIDE A SHARPER FOCUS FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS"; (C) TO DELETE IN THE LAST SENTENCE THE PHRASE "IN FORMULATING APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS", AND (D) TO ADD THE FINAL SENTENCE PROPOSED BY JAPAN (PARA 2 ABOVE). THE SOVIET REP REMARKED CONTENTEDLY THAT "ALL OF PARA 4(A) NOW IS IN BRACKETS."

6. PARA 4(B) WAS ADOPTED EASILY WITH ONLY A MINOR EDITORIAL CHANGE.

7. PARA 4(C). THE USSR MOVED TO SUPPRESS THE ORIGINAL INTENTION OF THE PARA THAT GENERAL DEBATES IN THE SECOND COMMITTEE SHOULD BE "REPLACED BY" SEPARATE DEBATES ON INDIVIDUAL ITEMS. THE SOVIET REP STATED FLATLY THAT THE USSR INSISTED UPON RETAINING PROVISION FOR GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENTS. FOLLOWING SHARP UK-USSR EXCHANGES, AND EXPRESSIONS OF DISMAY FROM BOTH THE UK AND BELGIUM THE COMMITTEE RISKED PRODUCING ONLY A PRETENSE OF REFORM, THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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USSR EVENTUALLY FOUND FAVOR IN A COMPROMISE FORMULATION DEvised BY THE US REP WHICH COULD PERMIT GENERAL STATEMENTS TO BE MADE BUT WOULD NOT ENCOURAGE THEM. UNDER THIS FORMULATION THE OPENING PHRASE OF THE FIRST SENTENCE WAS REVISED TO READ "DEBATES, INCLUDING GENERAL DEBATE WITH SECOND COMMITTEE, SHOULD BE CONDUCTED ON INDIVIDUAL (AND SENTENCE CONTINUES UNCHANGED)." THE USSR ACCEPTED THIS COMPROMISE ON THE CONDITION THAT THE REGULAR ITEM ON THE REPORT OF THE ECOSOC ALWAYS WOULD BE INCLUDED AMONG THE FIRST GROUP OF ITEMS TO BE DEBATED. IT WAS AGREED TO DELETE THE LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 4(C). AS CONTENTIOUS AS THE DEBATE ON THIS PARA BECAME, THE G-77 CONTINUED TO PLAY A PASSIVE ROLE, G-77 SPOKESMEN EXPRESSING INDIFFERENCE ABOUT THE ISSUE AT STAKE.

8. PARA 5. THE US MANAGED TO INSERT THE PHRASE "THE SECRETARY GENERAL SHOULD ENSURE" (TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR CARRYING OUT THE INTENT OF THE PARA WOULD NOT REST WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL), BUT THE

PHRASE WAS PLACED IN BRACKETS AT INDIA'S REQUEST TO
ALLOW TIME FOR THE G-27 TO CONSIDER IT FURTHER.
LEONARD

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